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## **Sen. Kuipers receives ‘Great Influence’ award from social studies group**

**LANSING** — Sen. Wayne Kuipers, R-Holland, received the Great Influence Award from the Michigan Council for the Social Studies for his work in the Legislature.

“We have made important advances in improving educational quality and I want to keep working for more improvement,” said Kuipers, who chairs the Senate Education Committee. “I’m honored to receive this award for working to improve the education of all Michigan schoolchildren.”

Kuipers led the effort in the Legislature to replace the MEAP test given to 11<sup>th</sup>-graders with one based on a college-entrance exam. He also has worked to reduce the cost of health insurance for public-school employees to make sure every dollar possible goes toward educating children while maintaining excellent benefits for employees.

Most recently, Kuipers has begun hearings throughout the state about proposed high school graduation requirements.

Kuipers also has been honored by the Michigan School Counselor Association, the Michigan Parents, Teachers and Students Association, and the Michigan Association of School Administrators for playing a pivotal role on state education issues.

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